

Testimony for Charter Oak State College – Delores Bell
Appropriations Committee – Public Hearing
February 13, 2009

Good evening, Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Delores Bell and I reside in Hartford, CT. I am here for two reasons: to read the combined testimony of two students in the CT WAGE program who are unable to attend this hearing and give you an update on the CT WAGE program.

I would now like to read the combined testimony of Gloria Deyo and Tracey Monterio, who both reside in Torrington, Connecticut.

We are unable to attend the meeting this evening and would like Delores Bell to read this on our behalf.

We would like to address the importance of the CT Wage program for adults pursuing their degree. This program has allowed us to continue our education so that we can become self sufficient and contributing members of society.

This has been such a wonderful program for us thus far and without this program it would have been impossible to continue our education without taking out unmanageable loans. When we both applied, we were not sure if we were going to be considered for such a wonderful program. We were together when we received the call from the Coordinator, Delores Bell. We were so excited and grateful when she said that we were accepted. We told everyone about the opportunity that we had to continue our education and gave all the credit to the CT Wage program.

The idea of someone helping us out was unbelievable and amazing. Ms. Bell offered her expertise to help us determine the correct path to achieving our educational goals. During the orientation, we were given books, laptops and the training to get started with our online courses. Wow, what an amazing thing to do for struggling single mothers like us! It has allowed us to show our children that it is never too late to get an education and to strive for what you want.

Thank you for granting the funds for the CT Wage program. We hope that you will continue to fund the program so that it can continue to help single, hard working mothers. We need all the support we can get.

Sincerely
Gloria Deyo
Tracey Monterio

To date,